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PATENT

## IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Inventors: Ecker, Griffey, Sampath, Hofstadler, McNeil, Crooke,

Serial No.: 09/891,793

Group Art Unit: 1637

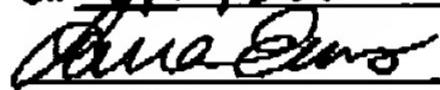
Filed: 6/26/2001

Examiner: Fredman, Jeffrey Norman

Title: METHODS FOR PROVIDING BACTERIAL BIOAGENT  
CHARACTERIZING INFORMATIONRECEIVED  
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I certify that this correspondence is being facsimile transmitted to 571-273-8300 or deposited with the U.S. Postal Service as First Class mail in an envelope addressed to the Commissioner for Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450.

On 8/11/2006

Laura Eames

Commissioner for Patents  
P.O. Box 1450  
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Dear Sir:

## AMENDMENT AND RESPONSE TO OFFICE ACTION MAILED 03/16/2006

In response to the Office Action mailed March 16, 2006, and pursuant to the enclosed request for extension of time to reply, please accept the following:

- Amendments to the Specification begin on page 2 of this paper.
- Amendments to the Claims are reflected in the listing of the claims which begins on page 4 of this paper.
- Remarks/Arguments begin on page 10 of this paper.